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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Holy God, as the week proceeds with so much more left to do, we pray Your divine presence in every debate, every hearing, every meeting, every conversation, and not the least, in every vote.

Given the sheer exhaustion, frenetic schedule, inadequate nourishment of body and soul through which these Members dutifully toil, without Your divine guidance, who is able to govern Your people?

Even as You answered King Solomon's prayer, grant these Your servants discerning hearts in the governance of this country. May they be able to parse out the necessary from the convenient. May they divide Your purpose from their prejudice. Simply, may they be able to distinguish right from wrong.

Unto Your care we commend then today's proceedings that they would prove worthy in Your sight.

We offer this prayer in the strength of Your name.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to section 11(a) of House Resolution 188, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from Colorado (Mrs. BOEBERT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. BOEBERT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

RENAME RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING

(Mr. GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is said that a picture is worth a thousand words. This is a picture of a symbol of national shame. It is the Russell Senate Office Building. The Russell Senate Office Building is named after Richard Russell, a racist and a bigot.

For 49 years, taxpayer dollars have gone into this facility. For 49 years, people have had to endure knowing that this facility is named after a bigot.

I believe that it is time for change. It is time to take the name of Richard Russell off this building. We don't have to name it in honor of someone else. Let it revert to the name that it had prior to Richard Russell; it was the Old Senate Office Building.

I ask that we do this, and I am going to write a letter to each and every Senator explaining this and hoping that each and every Senator will at some point decide that a building paid for with taxpayer dollars should not be named in honor of a racist and a bigot.

HONORING HARRY TALBOTT

(Mrs. BOEBERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BOEBERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of a western Colorado legend and my dear friend, Harry Talbott of Palisade.

At his 2018 induction into the Colorado Agriculture Hall of Fame, Harry remarked:

The world may little remember nor long note what we have done here tonight, but our contributions to Colorado agriculture will live long after we are gone and make it easier for those who come after us.

I am honored and blessed to have known Harry, as is western Colorado.

As the founder of one of Colorado's largest and oldest orchards, Talbott Farms, his contributions to agriculture in Colorado cannot be overstated.

Grown with snowmelt from the Grand Mesa, the Talbott name is synonymous with the best peaches many will ever have the pleasure of experiencing.

Along the way, he employed and mentored countless Coloradans, many of whom remain in agriculture today with farms of their own.

Without Harry and his grandiose vision for Palisade, the Western Slope wouldn't be the place that it is today. He is the giant whose shoulders the community now stands upon.

However, I would be remiss to confine any tribute merely to Harry's business endeavors because they are but a small piece of the man he was.

Harry was the quintessential renaissance man. Harry was a veteran, having served honorably in the United States Army. Harry was a science teacher who invested in the hearts and minds of the children in our communities.

Harry was a pioneer and an icon of Colorado's Third District, a man whose character has been integral to that of the Western Slope.

Harry leaves behind his wife, Bonnie; his children, Bruce, Nathan, Charlie, Dave, and Kathy; as well as numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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I extend to them my heartfelt condolences and pray that God's holy spirit will comfort them and mend their broken hearts. Today, we honor a life of service.

Harry, we love you.

HONORING KEVIN VALENCIA

(Mrs. DEMINGS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. DEMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Orlando Police Officer Kevin Valencia.

As a former chief in Orlando, I join my brothers and sisters at OPD and Kevin's wife, Meghan, and their two sons in expressing gratitude for his service and in mourning his passing.

In 2018, Officer Valencia responded to a domestic violence call involving a convicted felon armed with a firearm who was holding four children hostage. Upon trying to gain entry and save the children, Kevin was shot and critically wounded. The subject later took the lives of those children.

Kevin fought hard to survive but succumbed to his injuries on March 15 of this year.

We use the word "hero" often, and sometimes I think we forget the many heroic actions our men and women in blue perform every day. But Officer Kevin Valencia was a hero in every sense of the word.

On March 15, a part of America died. We are grateful for a life well lived. Courage, pride, and commitment.

RECOGNIZING FRANK BECKMANN

(Mr. WALBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the upcoming retirement of a legend in Michigan broadcasting, Frank Beckmann.

For the past 48 years, Frank has been a pillar of the WJR airwaves. Frank has been inducted into the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame and Michigan Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame, and he has a list of professional accolades longer than the time we have today.

The Maize and Blue faithful know him as the voice of Michigan football for over three decades. His weekly listeners, the best informed in all of talk radio, know him as a clear and compelling proponent of commonsense values. Nonprofits and charities across the State know his generosity in using his microphone to support many worthy causes. I am blessed to know him as a friend.

Congratulations, Frank, on a long and storied career.

I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Frank Beckmann a wonderful retirement filled with family, lots of golf, and coolers full of fresh Lake Erie walleye.

RESTORING NORMAL RELATIONS WITH CUBA

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge President Biden to move quickly and comprehensively to restore U.S.-Cuban relations.

The last 2 years of the Obama administration saw an explosion of positive change in Cuba. The fledgling Cuban private sector flourished. Innovation, the internet, communications, and political space expanded. And exchanges between our two peoples multiplied.

Official cooperation advanced significantly on law enforcement, antinarcotics, migration, human trafficking, and the environment. Dialogues began on tough topics like economic reform and human rights.

Tragically, these advances were wiped out by President Trump. Today, we need strong, levelheaded leadership capable of rebuilding trust, navigating a return to normal relations, and advancing U.S. interests.

We need to immediately end restrictions on travel; remittances; financial transactions; and educational, scientific, environmental, and cultural exchange.

We must remove Cuba again from the state sponsors of terrorism list and rescind any sanction that impedes the delivery of humanitarian aid.

Let's not make the mistake of moving slowly and incrementally. We need to act now. I call on the Biden administration to make this a priority.

SECURE THE SOUTHERN BORDER

(Mr. ALLEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, there is an undeniable crisis along our southern border, and the most recent numbers we have received are alarming.

Last month, there were over 100,000 illegal immigrants encountered at our border. That is a 173 percent increase from the same time last year and the highest number of encounters in 7 years.

From January to February of this year, we saw a 163 percent increase of family unit encounters, a 61 percent increase in unaccompanied minors, and a 28 percent increase in encounters overall.

This surge is a direct result of the Biden administration's failure to secure our border and enforce our immigration laws.

Now we face a humanitarian crisis. While the President refuses to acknowledge this dire situation, my Democratic colleagues are turning a deaf ear by advancing two bills this week to grant blanket amnesty to millions of illegals. Are you kidding me?

This sends the wrong message that our borders are open and that our laws

don't matter, which will only incentivize more illegal immigration. It is time to build a wall, end policies like catch and release, and oppose mass amnesty. We must secure our border.

DREAMERS MUST BE SUPPORTED

(Mr. SUOZZI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SUOZZI. Mr. Speaker, 100 years ago, my father was born in a small medieval village in the mountaintops of southern Italy.

He came to America as a young boy, and in his St. Dominic's High School senior yearbook, he wrote that his goal in life was "to become a real American."

Twenty-seven years ago, I served as the young mayor of my hometown of Glen Cove. I addressed the issue of a growing population of new immigrants from Central and South America who gathered on street corners looking for daywork by creating the first day-worker site anywhere on the East Coast of the United States of America.

Today, those same men who gathered on street corners have their own businesses, own their own homes, and their children went to school with my children.

One Dreamer from El Salvador, who graduated high school with my daughter, went on to graduate from college with a degree in biomedical engineering, got a master's in biomedical engineering, and is now pursuing a doctorate in the same subject.

Today, I will support the American Dream and Promise Act, for Mario, for Nelson, and for all the other Dreamers whose goal is, like my father's, to become a real American.

□ 1215

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF FRANK CAGLE

(Mr. BURCHETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago, Frank Cagle, my close friend and a good Libertarian conservative, passed away after a battle with cancer.

Frank was a brave American who served with the 82nd Airborne during the Vietnam war. Following his service, he attended college and worked for newspapers across the South.

In 1982, Frank came to east Tennessee to work at the Knoxville News Sentinel as a copy editor. His passion was reporting on State and local politics. Frank put his commentary into action, serving as deputy to Knoxville Mayor, Victor Ashe, and working as campaign manager on Congressman Van Hilleary's 2002 bid for Governor.

He later returned to journalism, writing columns and analyzing policy for Knoxville TN Today, WATE, and back at the Knoxville News Sentinel. Frank